

**New Milford Board of Education
Special Meeting
July 11, 2006
Lillis Building – Room 8**

Present: Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Chairperson
Dr. Lisa Diamond
Mrs. Dian Traisci-Marandola
Mr. William McLachlan
Mr. Thomas McSherry
Mr. Robin Ruggiero
Dr. Lawrence Stillman
Mrs. Julie Turk
Mr. Joseph Vita

Absent: Mrs. Ann Burns
Mr. David A. Lawson
Ms. Jennifer Oliveira

Also Present: Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Superintendent
Mr. Thomas Corbett, Director of Operations
Mr. John Turk, Director of Fiscal Services
Mr. David Elmore, Director of Technology
Mr. John Dufour, All Star Transportation
Mr. Charles Fasnacht, Energy Education, Inc.

<p>1. Mrs. Faulenbach called the special meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:30 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.</p>	<p>Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance</p>
<p>2. There was no public comment.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p>
<p>3. Motion by Dr. Stillman: Move that the Board of Education move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations and invite Dr. Paddyfote, Mr. John Turk, Mr. Thomas Corbett, and Mr. John Dufour into Executive Session.</p>	<p>Motion made and passed that the Board enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations and invite Dr. Paddyfote, Mr. Turk, Mr. Corbett and Mr. John Dufour into Executive Session.</p>
<p>Seconded: Mr. Ruggiero</p>	
<p>Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggiero, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Vita</p>	
<p>Nay: Abstain:</p>	
<p>Motion: Passed Unanimously 9-0-0</p>	
<p>The Board entered into Executive Session at 6:33 p.m.</p>	<p>Executive Session</p>

The Board re-entered Public Session at 6:56 p.m.

Dr. Stillman left public session at 6:56 p.m.

Dr. Stillman returned to public session at 6:58 p.m.

4. A. Motion by Dr. Diamond: Move to approve Revised Exhibit A – Personnel as recommended by the Superintendent

Seconded by: Mrs. Marandola

Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggiero, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Vita

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion: Passed Unanimously 8-0-0

Presentation by Mr. Charles Fasnacht of Energy Education, Inc.

- New Milford will not have to budget any new money to hire Energy Education, Inc.
- During the 4-year contract, Energy Education will be paid with \$.15 on every \$1.00 in energy costs savings. At the end of the contract, Energy Education will continue to help monitor the district at no further cost.
- The company will suggest solutions to reduce any energy consumption problem that they see, in addition to the training of our people.
- Energy Education sits in on the interview process in a search for the “in-house” staff member that will serve as the “Energy Coordinator” for the district.
- Qualifications for this position include a winning attitude, group leadership skills, an education background, and willingness to promote “team spirit” among the staff.
- Energy Education will provide a job description and posting materials to expedite the search for the energy coordinator.

- B. Motion by Mr. Ruggiero: Move that the Board accept the proposal from Energy Education, Inc. as recommended by the Superintendent.

Seconded by: Dr. Diamond

Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggiero, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Vita

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion: Passed Unanimously 9-0-0

Motion made and passed to approve Exhibit A- Personnel as recommended by the Superintendent

Presentation by Mr. Charles Fasnacht of Energy Education, Inc.

Motion made and passed that the Board accept the proposal from Energy Education, Inc. as recommended by the Superintendent.

C. Motion by Mr. Ruggiero: Move that the Board authorize the Superintendent or designee to enter into an agreement with Yankee Gas to supply New Milford High School, Sarah Noble Intermediate School and John Pettibone School with natural gas should the economics be beneficial to the district.

Seconded by: Dr. Diamond

Discussion:

- Mr. Turk assured the Board that he will calculate gas to energy equivalents very carefully to assess the economic advantages or disadvantages. He will also be collaborating with the Town.
- Mr. McLachlan questioned the cost of changing back to oil. Mr. Turk said that there would be no cost.
- Mr. McLachlan asked if gas was considered more dangerous than oil when used for heating. Mr. Turk answered that there is no specific answer to that question.
- Dr. Stillman asked if all our schools could be converted but was assured that only the three mentioned had gas lines available to use. Dr. Stillman stated that, to the best of his knowledge, fuel oil can be just as explosive as natural gas.
- Mr. Corbett added that New Milford has used natural gas in the past with no problem.
- Mr. McLachlan asked if natural gas was as efficient per BTU as fuel oil.
- Mr. Ruggiero expressed his safety concerns as well and asked if there would be any training of our people – Mr. Turk answered that yes, there would be training.
- Mr. McLachlan asked if Yankee Gas would guarantee a savings of \$62,000 if the degree days stay relatively the same and would there be a service contract associated with gas usage.
- Mr. Turk addressed these questions by saying that the \$62,000 savings was entirely his own estimation based on the usage at the three schools over the past three years. He considered that this is probably a conservative estimate, given similar usage figures. He continued by assuring the Board that other energy saving programs already in place would be continued. There will be no service contract associated with the gas usage, currently we are making our own repairs. We have had a boiler consultant advise us on how to make the most of our boilers.

Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggiero, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Vita

Nay: Mr. McLachlan

Abstain:

Motion: Passed 8-1-0

Motion made and passed that the Board authorize the Superintendent or designee to enter into an agreement with Yankee Gas to supply New Milford High School, Sarah Noble Intermediate School and John Pettibone School with natural gas should the economics be beneficial to the district.

D. Motion by Mr. McSherry: Move that the Board approve the Memo of Understanding with the NMEA regarding insurance co-pays.

Seconded by: Dr. Stillman

Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggiero, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Vita

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion: Passed Unanimously 9-0-0

E. Mrs. Faulenbach stated that Baseball Saved Us is on the agenda as a result of the recommendation from the Committee on Learning to remove the book from the K-3 curriculum.

Discussion:

- Dr. Stillman stated that, after sitting in at the Committee on Learning meeting, he was very upset that the Committee's recommendation was to put a limit on a book. He feels that this book teaches tolerance in a soft manner and finds the term "Shorty" more derogatory as it is used in the story than any other reference. Dr. Stillman does not want to set a precedent of banning any book to accommodate anyone that has an objection. As this book has been in the curriculum for ten years, Dr. Stillman would like to see it kept, at its current level in the K-3 curriculum.

Motion by Dr. Stillman: Move that the Board not remove the book Baseball Saved Us from the K-3 curriculum but leave it at its current status.

Seconded by Mrs. Marandola

Discussion:

- Mrs. Turk feels that this is not book banning nor is it subject censoring but rather re-thinking the age appropriateness of the subject matter.
- Mr. McLachlan feels that the correct recommendation was made by the Committee on Learning after an hour of discussion and debate to not ban this book but to take it off of the required reading list for the K-3 curriculum.
- Mrs. Marandola asked for clarification of what is meant by the term "trade book". Dr. Paddyfote explained that an approved "trade book" is one that is available in multiple copies to use for instruction of small as well as large groups. Not every class on the same grade level read the same trade books, it is left to the individual teacher to choose from the available trade books to use

Motion made and passed that the Board approve the Memo of Understanding with the NMEA regarding insurance co-pays.

Discussion of the book Baseball Saved Us.

Motion made and passed that the Board not remove the book Baseball Saved Us from the K-3 curriculum but leave it at its current status.

in his/her classroom.

- Dr. Diamond stated that not every book should be offered on every age level, some are not age appropriate. Curriculum decisions should not be considered a form of book banning.
- Mr. Ruggiero is not part of the COL but expressed his concern about setting this precedent. He feels that New Milford should prepare for coming cultural changes.
- Dr. Diamond stated that tolerance is not taught by including derogatory terms in our curriculum. There are so many other choices within this area.

Motion by Mr. McSherry to Call the Question.

There was no second for this motion.

- Mr. Vita believes that certified staff should be making educational decisions about trade books. Previous Board members approved Baseball Saved Us and in the ten years it has been approved, only one parent has objected.
- Mrs. Marandola feels that a precedent has already been set with ten years of approved use of this book. Board policy provides for families to “opt out” of objectionable curriculum requirements. She does not want to take away any book because of one objection in ten years. The Japanese Cultural Association has been tracking this decision and does not wholly support the banning of this book.
- Mrs. Faulenbach went home from the Committee on Learning meeting with a different idea than when she entered the meeting. She stated that we should leave this book in the curriculum as it provides a forum to teach lessons about our individual differences.
- Mr. McLachlan feels that the COL spent a year of debate and study on the Math program in order to suggest what direction would lead to the best results. The COL’s recommendation in this instance is a way of giving direction on this book.
- Mr. Vita feels this book is appropriate for all children, in fact it is in his own house.
- Mr. McLachlan would like the motion as proposed be voted on before any new motions are entertained.
- Mrs. Faulenbach stated that the book is on the agenda for discussion and possible action, however, once a motion has been made and seconded, it must be acted upon in some form.

Aye: Mr. Ruggiero, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. Vita, Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Stillman

Nay: Mr. McLachlan, Mr. McSherry, Mrs. Turk, Dr. Diamond

Motion: Passed 5-4-0

F. Motion by Mrs. Marandola: Move that the Board vote to suspend Policy 3323 Soliciting Prices (Bids and Quotes) relative to the bus contract.

Seconded by: Mr. McSherry

Discussion:

- Mrs. Turk questioned that this suspension of Policy is strictly for the bus contract.
- Mrs. Faulenbach responded that it was the specific intent of the Motion put forward.

Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggiero, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk

Nay:

Abstain: Mr. Vita

Motion : Passed 8-0-1

G.1 Motion by Dr. Stillman: Move that the Board amend its transportation contract on the terms discussed in Executive Session and further move that the Board direct its legal counsel to draft such amended agreement.

Seconded: Mr. Ruggiero

Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggiero, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk

Nay:

Abstain: Mr. Vita

Motion: Passed 8-0-1

G.2 Motion by Dr. Diamond: Move that the Board Chairperson sign the amended agreement on behalf of the Board.

Seconded: Mrs. Turk

Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggiero, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk

Nay:

Abstain: Mr. Vita

Motion: Passed 8-0-1

H. Security Contract

Discussion:

- Mr. Corbett brought the offer of security services from the current contractor, at the same rate as two years ago, before the Board for consideration. The current contractor was the lowest bidder two years ago.
- Mr. Ruggiero questioned why this contract was not put out for bids.

Motion made and passed that the Board vote to suspend Policy 3323 Soliciting Prices (Bids and Quotes) relative to the bus contract.

Motion made and passed that the Board of Education amend its transportation contract on the terms discussed in Executive Session and further move that the Board direct its legal counsel to draft such amended agreement.

Motion made and passed that the Board Chairperson sign the amended agreement on behalf of the Board.

Discussion of the Security Contract.

- Mr. Corbett stated that this contract can easily be put out for bid.
- Mrs. Marandola asked why we don't handle this ourselves or through New Milford Police Department.
- Dr. Paddyfote stated that we have a separate contract for services with the New Milford Police Department.
- Dr. Diamond asked if any other companies have been researched.
- Mr. Vita asked if there was an expiration date on this offer and does the current contractor exceed our expectations.
- Mr. Corbett replied that he is not aware of any expiration date. This contractor meets our expectations, but we pay for any "extras".
- Dr. Paddyfote added that this company was very responsive in September of 2005 when extra coverage was required at NMHS.
- Mr. McLachlan is concerned that this issue be settled before school begins.
- Mr. Ruggiero stated that any new company needs to be more aware of current safety issues, perhaps, by putting it out to bid, we can get more services for the same money.
- Mrs. Marandola clarified that Dr. Paddyfote, as of the June Board of Education meeting, has the authority to act for the Board in this matter.
- Mr. Ruggiero requested special note be made if this issue is to be decided in a special Board meeting in August.
- Mr. McSherry asked what the chances are that we will receive a lower bid for comparable services.
- Mr. Corbett does not feel that those chances are very good.

It was the general consensus of the Board that the security contract be put out for bid.

- I. Motion by Mrs. Marandola: Move that the Board request, from the 2005-2006 fund balance, a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$60,700, for the sole purpose of eliminating pay-to-play Interscholastic Sports and that any remaining 2005-2006 funds be designated for the capital reserve account.

Seconded: Dr. Stillman

Discussion:

- Mr. Turk stated that we still have no final number as we are still cleaning up the last details.
- Mrs. Faulenbach stated that we can go to the Town Council/Board of Finance to ask for special appropriation to cover pay-to-play.
- Mr. Turk reminded the Board that we cannot ask for any appropriation until after the auditors are finished with their audit. We will have to start school with the assumption that this request will be granted and not charge for participation in the Fall sports. To this end, Mr. Turk asked Mr. Jankowski about the outlook. Mr. Jankowski said, unofficially of course, that things "looked good".

Motion made and passed that the Board request, from the 2005-2006 fund balance, a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$60,700, for the sole purpose of eliminating pay-to-play Interscholastic Sports and that any remaining 2005-2006 funds be designated for the capital reserve account.

Special Meeting of New Milford Board of Education

July 11, 2006

Page 8

Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McLachlan,
Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggiero, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Vita

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion: Passed Unanimously 9-0-0

5. Motion by Mr. McLachlan: Move to adjourn.

Seconded: Dr. Diamond

Aye: Mrs. Faulenbach, Dr. Diamond, Mrs. Marandola, Mr. McLachlan,
Mr. McSherry, Mr. Ruggiero, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk, Mr. Vita

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion: Passed Unanimously 9-0-0

The New Milford Board of Education adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Motion made and
passed to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Vita
Secretary